

Serial No.: 09/988,193

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 21-24 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. These claims have been made to depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 20 and are now believed to comply fully with 35 USC §112. The examiner's treatment of these claims in the office action as if they depended from claim 20 is appreciated.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 4 and 20 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Kaneshiro et al. is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments. By the above amendments, the claims are clarified to require the second part to transmit the braking forces to the housing through the first part. This amendment obviates the reading of the claims made in the office action. Accordingly, the retainer plate 6 and anchor block 5 of Kaneshiro do not correspond to the elements recited in claims 4 and 20, and cannot anticipate these claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 7, 18, 19 and 22-24 under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Kaneshiro. In addition to the comments above with regard to the amendments to claims 4 and 20, it is believed that there is no basis whatever for the assertion in the office action that the claimed thicknesses would have been obvious.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 6 and 21 under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Kaneshiro in view of Hansen. Hansen has no teaching that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kaneshiro to provide the structure now recited in the claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 15-17 under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Buchholz in view of Kaneshiro. Neither of these references contains any suggestion of the proposed combination, and it is submitted that the office action, therefore, fails to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness. These references teach separate techniques for reducing noise, and nothing in either would have suggested the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. One basis for the invention is the recognition that it is difficult to provide damped steel of adequate strength and adequate noise-dampening properties, and neither of these references contains any suggestion of such. Buchholz merely teaches that the outer plate may be

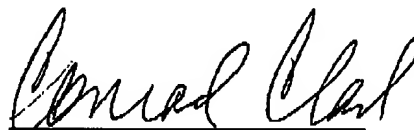
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of different thickness steel and also suggests the use of low-friction coatings. Buchholz does not teach or suggest the use of a vibration dampening material and certainly does not suggest damped steel. Thus, it is clear that nothing in these references would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to the claimed invention.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

All necessary extensions of time are hereby requested. Please charge any deficiency and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
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